

Surveillance of Political Activity

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To the Editor:

The recent disclosure that former Lieut. Col. Elihu J. Braunstein—the Army's chief domestic intelligence analyst—has been in Miami for both the Democratic and the Republican national conventions again raises the specter of military intelligence surveillance of lawful political activity.

During the 1968 national conventions, Army agents, employing a wide variety of disguises and cover stories, thoroughly monitored all aspects of activity outside the convention halls while other agents with vague, ill-defined orders roved through the meeting places themselves. Disclosure of this activity aroused, quite naturally, considerable bipartisan wrath from both houses of Congress.

Army spokesmen have been at pains of late to deny that any repetition of the previous military spying would be conducted at this year's conventions. However the presence of Mr. Braun-

stein, an exceptionally capable and experienced intelligence operative, in Miami once again demonstrates the need for a continuing and close examination of military intelligence activities by Congress and the courts.

In the fall, the Supreme Court will hear a motion by the American Civil Liberties Union asking for a reversal of the high court's spring decision dismissing *Tatum v. Laird*, a class action challenging military intelligence spying. The Government, in asking for a dismissal, urged that the activity complained of had entirely ceased and that the issue was moot. This latest revelation, only one of many which have demonstrated the extent of military involvement in civilian politics, will, one hopes, impress the Supreme Court with the need for a full court airing of the complex constitutional issues *Tatum v. Laird* presents.

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